

## **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A relay apparatus is connected to a host computer through a network and transmits data received from the host computer to a device. A first basic unit and a second basic unit are provided for the relay apparatus. A common network address is set into the first and second basic units. The relay apparatus performs a relay control between the host computer and the device. A common unit makes one of the first and second basic units operative as a present system and monitors its status. When an abnormality is detected during the monitoring operation, the relay apparatus stops the basic unit of the present system and switches it to the operation of the basic unit of a standby system.